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## AP-NORC poll: Most favor pairing debt limit rise with deficit cuts

By D. SUPERVILLE/F.HUSSEIN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — About two-thirds of U.S. adults say they are highly concerned about how the national economy would be affected if the U.S. debt limit is not increased and the government defaults on its debts, according to a new poll, even as few say they have a solid understanding of the ongoing debt limit negotiations. The poll shows about 6 in 10 say they want any increase in the debt limit to be coupled with agreed-upon terms for reducing the federal budget deficit. At the same time, Americans are more likely to disapprove than approve of how President Joe Biden and congressional negotiators on both sides of the aisle are handling negotiations. Slightly more approve of Biden's handling of the situation than of congressional Republicans.



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., criticizes President Joe Biden's policies and efforts on the debt limit negotiations as he holds a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Associated Press

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## AP-NORC poll: Most favor pairing debt limit rise with deficit cuts

Continued from Front

The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research was conducted before Republican negotiators on Friday said they would "press pause" on talks as the two sides struggle to come to an agreement to avert a damaging default on U.S. government debt. It shows 27% say they approve of Biden and 26% say the same about congressional Democrats, while 22% approve of congressional Republicans. Close to half disapprove of each.

Robert Hutchins, 66, says he somewhat approves of how House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Republicans in Congress are handling negotiations.

"At least he's trying to do something," the Republican from Milton, Delaware, said of McCarthy's leadership over his conference. "The Democrats want to spend more money and they don't want any limit to it."

Hutchins said he doesn't have "any confidence whatsoever" in Biden and doesn't believe in abolishing the debt ceiling, as it serves as a constant reminder of the nation's debt load, which currently stands at \$31.4 trillion.

Otherwise, "you just think you have an unlimited



The rising sun illuminates the U.S. Capitol, Dec. 19, 2022 in Washington.

credit card and you can spend whatever you want," he said.

Ron Ellis, 61, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, said he hasn't been paying a lot of attention to the latest debt limit debate because he's thinks it will be resolved in time to save the economy from harm, as the White House and Congress have done in the past. But he expressed concern about the level of U.S. borrowing, calling it "astronomical" and "out of hand."

"I've learned from the past that they always at the last minute come up with a plan," said Ellis, a registered Democrat who is retired after owning a trucking company. "Basically, it's just a show on their part and, you know, one side blames the other and generally they end up with a deci-

sion. Hopefully they'll do it again."

Overall, about 2 in 10 U.S. adults say they are following negotiations over raising the debt limit extremely or very closely, and about 4 in 10 are following somewhat closely. Similarly, about 2 in 10 say they understand the situation very well and about 4 in 10 say they understand it somewhat well.

Still, a clear majority — 63% — say they think the negotiations should be coupled with terms to reduce the budget deficit. Nineteen percent say the debt limit should be raised without conditions and 16% say it should not be raised at all. Overall, the adults who say they understand the debate best are especially likely to say the debt limit should be increased

without conditions, with 37% saying so among that group.

A default would likely spell catastrophe for the U.S. economy, with spillover throughout the globe, and would prompt a probable recession.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned this week that a national default would destroy jobs and businesses, and leave millions of families who rely on federal government payments to "likely go unpaid," including Social Security beneficiaries, veterans and military families.

An AP-NORC poll conducted earlier this year also shows little consensus on cuts that would make a dent in the deficit: While most Americans said the government spends too much overall, majorities favored increased spending on popular and expensive programs including Medicare and Social Security.

Similar percentages of Republicans and Democrats say they are following and understanding negotiations, and concern about the economy if the U.S. defaults is widely bipartisan. But about a third of Democrats say the national debt limit should be increased without conditions, while just 6% of Republicans say the same.

Twenty-three percent of

Republicans but just 7% of Democrats say the debt limit should not be increased under any circumstances.

Aaron Loessberg-Zahl, a 33-year-old Democrat from San Jose, California, said the debt ceiling should be raised without conditions, and called the statutory limit on borrowing "arbitrary."

"Congress already controls the purse strings. They approve the annual budgets for our government," Loessberg-Zahl said. "I think that's plenty of control over the spending."

He called the debate over whether and how to raise the debt ceiling "not productive" and said he approves of the president's handling of negotiations.

"My belief is that those people probably don't understand the full ramifications of what would happen if the country were to default," Loessberg-Zahl said.

Connor Knippers, a 19-year-old independent studying industrial technology at the University of Texas at Tyler, said the government should quit spending money it doesn't have. He's OK with increasing the debt limit, but said the people in charge need to come up with a long-term solution to help the country get out of debt. □

## Trump election investigation would likely come in August



Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis poses for a portrait, Wednesday, April 19, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By KATE BRUMBACK  
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta prosecutor investigat-

tion loss in Georgia seems to be suggesting that any grand jury indictments in the case would likely come in August.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis sent a letter Thursday to county Superior Court Chief Judge Ural Glanville indicating that she plans to have much of her staff work remotely for most days during the first three weeks of August and asking that judges not schedule trials and in-person hearings during part of that time. Copied in on the letter are 20 other county officials, including Sheriff Pat Labat, the court clerk and

top leaders. "Thank you for your consideration and assistance in keeping the Fulton County Judicial Complex safe during this time," Willis wrote in the letter, first reported by The New York Times.

Willis last month wrote local law enforcement leaders advising them that she intended to announce charging decisions in the case between July 11 and Sept. 1. Thursday's letter seems to narrow that window. In the earlier letters she advised law enforcement to prepare for "heightened security," noting that the announcement of charges "may provoke a significant

public reaction."For more than two years, Willis and her team have been scrutinizing actions Trump and others took as they tried to overturn his narrow loss in Georgia to Democrat Joe Biden. She wrote in the letter to Glanville that she plans to reduce the staffing in her office by about 70% on most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays — the days when grand juries meet in Fulton County — between July 31 and Aug. 18. But she said her "leadership team, all armed investigators" and some other staff would continue to be on site during the remote work days. □

## FBI broke rules on Jan. 6 riot, racial justice protests, court says

By ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — FBI officials repeatedly violated their own standards when they searched a vast repository of foreign intelligence for information related to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and racial justice protests in 2020, according to a heavily blacked-out court order released Friday.

FBI officials said the thousands of violations, which also include improper searches of donors to a congressional campaign, predated a series of corrective measures that started in the summer of 2021 and continued last year. But the problems could nonetheless complicate FBI and Justice Department efforts to receive congressional reauthorization of a warrantless surveillance program that law enforcement officials say is needed to counter terrorism, espionage and international cybercrime. The violations were detailed in a secret court order issued last year by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which has legal oversight of the U.S. government's spy powers. The Office of the Director of the National Intelligence released a re-



The FBI seal is pictured in Omaha, Neb., Aug. 10, 2022.

dacted version on Friday in what officials said was the interest of transparency. Members of Congress received the order when it was issued last year.

"Today's disclosures underscore the need for Congress to rein in the FBI's egregious abuses of this law, including warrantless searches using the names of people who donated to a congressional candidate," said Patrick Toomey, deputy director of the ACLU's National Security Project.

"These unlawful searches undermine our core constitutional rights and threaten the bedrock of our democracy. It's clear the FBI can't be left to police itself."

At issue are improper queries of foreign intelligence information collected under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which enables the government to gather the communications of targeted foreigners outside the U.S. That program expires at the end of the

year unless it is renewed. The program creates a database of intelligence that U.S. agencies can search. FBI searches must have a foreign intelligence purpose or be aimed at finding evidence of a crime. But congressional critics of the program have long raised alarm about what they say are unjustified searches of the database for information about Americans, along with more general concerns about perceived abuses of surveillance.

Associated Press

Concerns about the program have aligned staunch liberal defenders of civil liberties with supporters of former President Donald Trump who have seized on FBI surveillance errors during an investigation into his 2016 campaign. The issue has flared as the Republican-led House has been targeting the FBI, creating a committee to investigate the "weaponization" of government.

In repeated episodes disclosed Friday, the FBI's own standards were not followed. The April 2022 order, for instances, details how the FBI queried the Section 702 repository using the name of someone who was believed to have been at the Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot. Officials obtained the information despite it not having any "analytical, investigative or evidentiary purpose," the order said.

The court order also says that an FBI analyst ran 13 queries of people suspected of being involved in the Capitol riot to determine if they had any foreign ties, but the Justice Department later determined that the searches were not likely to find foreign intelligence information or evidence of a crime. □

## Kia, Hyundai settle class-action lawsuit after a rash of thefts

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Hyundai Motor America and Kia America said Friday they have reached a settlement to resolve a class-action lawsuit prompted by a surge in vehicle thefts.

The settlement could be valued at \$200 million and covers about 9 million 2011-2022 model year Hyundai and Kia vehicles in the U.S., the companies said.

The cars are not equipped with push-button ignitions and immobilizing anti-theft devices. That has allowed thieves to easily steal them using just a screwdriver and a USB cord, creating a recent rash of auto thefts across the country.

The settlement will provide cash compensation to cus-

tomers who suffered theft-related losses or damage not covered by insurance as well as reimbursement for insurance deductibles, increased insurance premiums and other losses, Kia and Hyundai said.

A software upgrade will also be provided to eligible owners. For customers with vehicles that cannot accommodate the software upgrade, the agreement will provide a reimbursement of up to \$300 for anti-theft devices.

Kia and Hyundai have also given impacted customers tens of thousands of free steering wheel locks through local law enforcement and direct shipments, the companies said.

The total settlement amount will depend on how many customers participate.

"Hyundai and Kia failed to sell cars equipped with fundamental anti-theft features, and that was not a victimless act," attorney Elizabeth A. Fegan of Fegan Scott, one of the law firms representing the plaintiffs, said in a statement. "We are pleased with the settlement reached and its immediate ability to hinder thieves, as well as compensate victims of thefts that have already occurred."

The proposed settlement is expected to be reviewed in court for preliminary approval in July.

The wave of Hyundai and

Kia thefts began in 2021 and spread nationally, with a spike last summer, fueled by instructional videos posted on TikTok and other social media sites. Some

police departments report continued thefts despite the automakers' unveiling of anti-theft software nearly three months ago. □



A line of 2022 Santa Fe SUV's sit outside a Hyundai dealership Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in Littleton, Colo.

Associated Press

## TikTok content creators file lawsuit against Montana

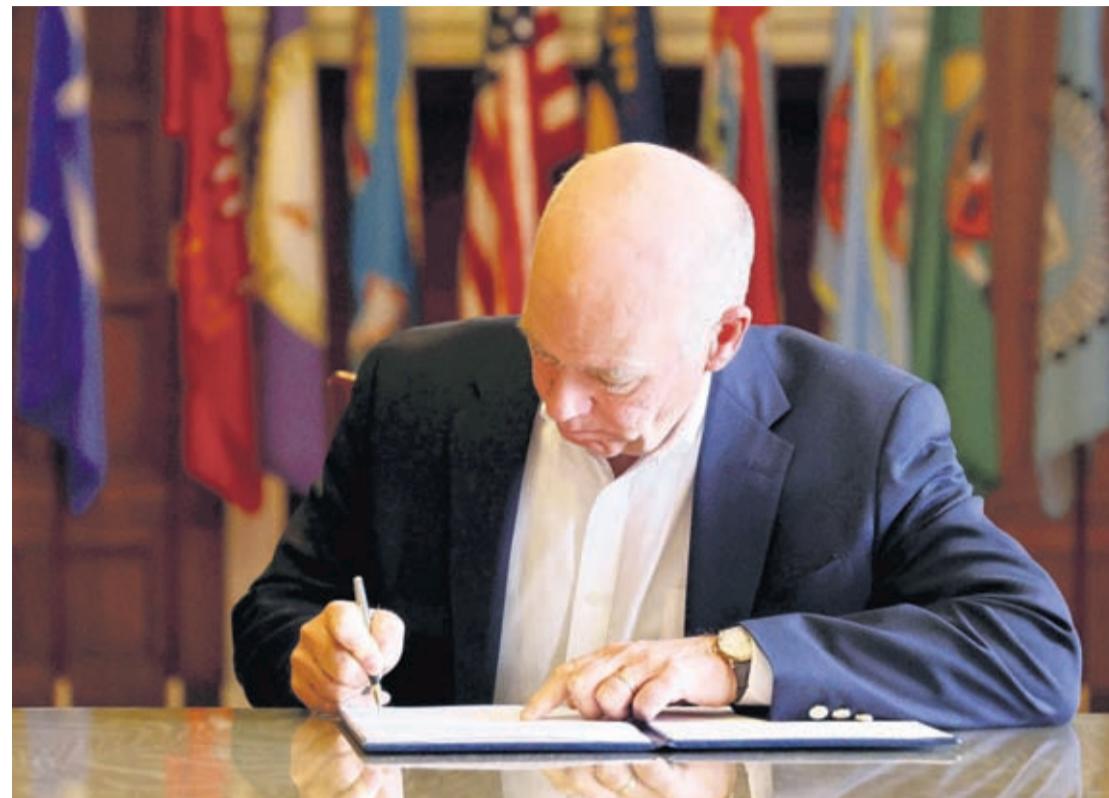
AMY BETH HANSON, HALELUYA HADERO and MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Five TikTok content creators have filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn Montana's first-in-the-nation ban on the video sharing app, arguing the law is an unconstitutional violation of free speech rights.

The Montana residents also argued in the complaint, filed in federal court late Wednesday without public notice, that the state doesn't have any authority over matters of national security. Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte signed the bill into law Wednesday and said it would protect Montana residents' private data and personal information from being harvested by the Chinese government. The ban is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 2024. "The law takes the broadest possible approach to its objectives, restricting and banning the protected speech of all TikTok users in Montana to prevent the speculative and unsubstantiated possibility that the Chinese government might direct TikTok Inc., or its parent, to spy on some Montana users," the complaint states.

"We expected a legal challenge and are fully prepared to defend the law," said Emily Flower, spokeswoman for the Montana



In this photo provided by the Montana Governor's Office, Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte signs a law banning TikTok in the state, Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in Helena, Mont.

Associated Press

Department of Justice.

TikTok has argued the law infringes on people's First Amendment rights.

However, spokesperson Brooke Oberwetter declined to comment on the lawsuit Thursday. She also declined to say whether the company helped coordinate the complaint.

The plaintiffs are Montana residents who use the video-sharing app for things like promoting a business, connecting with military veterans, sharing outdoor adventures or expressing their sense of humor. Two of them have more than

200,000 followers.

One content creator, Carly Ann Goddard, shares videos about living on a ranch, parenting, recipes and home decor. Her account has 97,000 followers and has allowed her to roughly triple her family's household income, the complaint states. TikTok creators can make money in several ways, including by being paid to advertise products to their followers. The lawsuit filed just hours after Gianforte signed the measure into law states the ban would "immediately and permanently de-

prive Plaintiffs of their ability to express themselves and communicate with others."

"Montana can no more ban its residents from viewing or posting to TikTok than it could ban the Wall Street Journal because of who owns it or the ideas it publishes," the plaintiffs' attorneys wrote. The case could serve as a testing ground for the TikTok-free America many national lawmakers have envisioned. Cybersecurity experts say it could be difficult to enforce.

Some lawmakers, the FBI and officials at other agencies are concerned the vid-

eo-sharing app, owned by ByteDance, could be used to allow the Chinese government to access information on U.S. citizens or push pro-Beijing misinformation that could influence the public. TikTok says none of this has ever happened.

A former executive at ByteDance alleges the tech giant has served as a "propaganda tool" for the Chinese government, a claim ByteDance says is baseless. China passed laws in 2014 and 2017 that compel companies to cooperate with the country's government for state intelligence work. TikTok says it has never been asked to hand over its data and it wouldn't do so if asked.

"TikTok is spying on Americans. Period," Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen told a legislative committee in March. "TikTok is a tool of the Chinese Communist Party. It is owned by a Chinese company, and under China law, if you are based in China, you will cooperate with the Chinese Communist Party. Period."

Montana's law would prohibit downloads of TikTok in the state and would fine any "entity" — an app store or TikTok — \$10,000 per day for each time someone "is offered the ability" to access the social media platform or download the app. The penalties would not apply to users. □

## 4th death, more vision loss cases linked to tainted eyedrops

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials reported another death and several more cases of vision loss from illnesses linked to eyedrops tainted with a drug-resistant bacteria.

The bacteria has infected 81 people, including four who died and 14 who lost vision, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. That's up from three deaths and eight cases of vision loss reported in March. The CDC

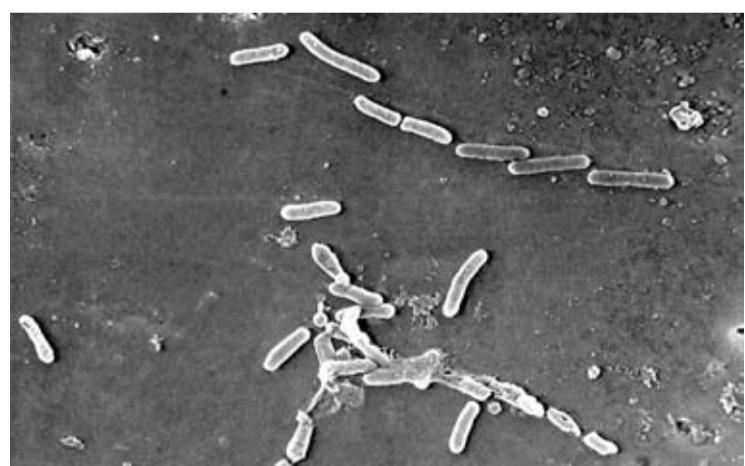
also said four people have undergone surgery to remove an eyeball due to the infections.

The outbreak is considered particularly worrisome because the bacteria driving it *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is resistant to standard antibiotics.

Investigators say most of the patients had used certain brands of eyedrops, and products from EzriCare and Delsam Pharma were recalled in February. At least seven patients were diagnosed after the recall.

After the recall, U.S. health inspectors visited the plant in India that made the eyedrops and uncovered problems with how the drops were made and tested, including inadequate sterility measures.

Cases have been reported from 18 states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. □



This scanning electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows rod-shaped *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria.

Associated Press

## Russia targets Greenpeace in crackdown on dissent but Kremlin critic Roizman avoids prison

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The Russian branch of the environmental group Greenpeace on Friday announced it would close after the authorities declared Greenpeace International to be an undesirable organization.

A statement from the national prosecutor-general's office said it had determined that Greenpeace posed "a threat to the foundations of the constitutional order and security of the Russian Federation" and pointed in particular to the conflict in Ukraine.

"Since the beginning of the special military operation of the Russian Federation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, Greenpeace activists have been engaged in anti-Russian propaganda, calling for further economic isolation of our country and tougher sanctions," it said.

But Greenpeace's Russian office said, "We are sure that the declaration of Greenpeace International as an undesirable organization is due precisely to the fact that we tried to prevent the implementation of plans that are destructive



**Yevgeny Roizman, former mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city, sits in a courtroom in Yekaterinburg, Russia, Friday, May 19, 2023.**

Associated Press

to nature and in many cases did it successfully.

"This decision makes it illegal for any Greenpeace activity to continue in Russia. Therefore, the Russian branch of Greenpeace is forced to close," it said on its website.

Amsterdam-based Greenpeace International said it had no immediate comment.

Since launching the Ukraine operation in February 2022, the Russian government has intensified its crackdown on dissent and toughened legislation against critics.

The authorities have methodically targeted people and organizations critical of the Kremlin, branding many as "foreign agents", declaring some as "unde-

sirable" and prosecuting those found to have discredited the military.

The dissident former mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city was found guilty Friday of such discrediting, but avoided a prison sentence. Yevgeny Roizman, 60, a sharp critic of the Kremlin, is one of the most visible and charismatic opposition figures in Russia. He

enjoyed broad popularity while serving as mayor of Yekaterinburg, a city of 1.5 million people in the Ural Mountains.

Roizman, who was mayor from 2013 to 2018, was arrested last August on charges of discrediting the Russian military, under a new law adopted after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine. Prosecutors at the time singled out a video broadcast Roizman made in July 2022 in which he criticized Russia's intervention.

Last year, Russian courts repeatedly fined Roizman on similar charges in an administrative court.

Under the law, repeat offenses can be tried in a criminal court.

While the charge of discrediting the Russian military could carry a prison sentence, a Yekaterinburg court on Friday instead fined Roizman 260,000 rubles (\$3250), in line with a request made the day before by the prosecution.

The ex-mayor told reporters Friday that he didn't plan to appeal the verdict, which he described as "an acquittal in the current conditions." □

## Macao further restricts political freedoms with revisions to law

**BEIJING (AP)** — Echoing the crackdown on freedoms in neighboring Hong Kong, the former Portuguese colony of Macao has revised its legal system to face "new adverse challenges in terms of national security." The government of the tiny enclave, heavily dependent on its gambling industry, said changes to the Law on Safeguarding National Security were needed as an upgrade to legislation first enacted in 2009, a decade after Macao's handover to Chinese rule.

"As the country presently faces new adverse challenges in terms of national security, the revision of Macao's Law on Safeguarding National Security is a compulsory step to respond effectively to risks and threats," the govern-



**In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, policemen perform a flag raising ceremony in Macao, Dec. 20, 2021, marking the 22nd anniversary of the former Portuguese colony's handover to Chinese rule.**

Associated Press

ment said. It gave no details of the changes passed Thursday by the special administrative region's rubber-stamp legislature.

However, the Global Times newspaper published by China's ruling Communist Party said Friday that the changes target espionage,

"foreign interference" and Taiwan independence supporters. It also expands the definition of crimes such as abetting and supporting insurrection and the preparation or intent to commit such criminal acts, according to the newspaper.

Such changes especially

the inclusion of foreign influence, which has been loosely defined and broadly applied in Hong Kong to include any contact with a foreign political or civil rights entity would tighten Beijing's control and bring Macao's legal system in closer alignment with that of mainland China's.

Unlike former British colony Hong Kong, which saw months of sometimes violent anti-government protests in 2019 that led to a sweeping crackdown, Macao has shown little taste for challenging Beijing's authority. Most of its 686,000 people are recent migrants from the mainland and appear willing to accept heavy-handed party control as long as its casinos continue to draw customers, mainly from China. Both Macao and Hong

Kong, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997, were promised they would retain their unique political, social and economic freedoms for 50 years. In Beijing, the Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office praised the legislation's passage, saying the "constantly evolving and intricate international environment presents new challenges for safeguarding national security in both regions."

Meanwhile, Hong Kong removed books related to the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown and certain political figures from its libraries, further shrinking the city's freedoms. The city's leader said Thursday that public libraries would not recommend books featuring undefined "bad ideologies" to residents. □

## Pakistan's Imran Khan allows police search of home for suspects

By BABAR DOGAR

Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) —

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan dialed down his campaign of defiance on Friday, saying he would allow a police search of his home over allegations that he was harboring suspects wanted in recent violence during anti-government protests by his supporters.

Khan, who is facing about 100 legal cases against him, also appeared before a court in his hometown of Lahore to seek protection from arrest in multiple terrorism cases that authorities have raised against the country's top opposition leader. He also condemned days of violence in which his supporters attacked public property and military installations after he was dragged out of a courtroom and arrested in a graft case in the capital, Islamabad, last week. At least 10 people were killed in clashes between his supporters and police across the country.



Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, arrives to appear before a court in Lahore, Pakistan, Friday, May 19, 2023.

Associated Press

The rioting subsided only when Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered Khan's release. Police sought Khan on charges of inciting supporters of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to violence. He denies the allegation, saying he was in the custody of the Na-

tional Accountability Bureau in a graft case when the clashes erupted. Khan appeared conciliatory as he appeared before an anti-terrorism court in Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab. The judge granted him protection from arrest in three ter-

rorism cases until early in June. "Yes, I condemn it," Khan told reporters at the Lahore court, speaking of the rampage. "There is no Pakistani who will not condemn the violence." After Khan's release from arrest last week and return to Lahore, police surrounded his

home, alleging that he was sheltering in his upscale residence of Zaman Park between 30 to 40 suspects linked to the violence. Police, who have some 300 officers deployed around Khan's compound, threatened to raid the premises unless the suspects were handed over. The stand-off was resolved with an agreement for the police to search the home. Khan's party claimed police failed to find any suspects there. Hours later, Khan told reporters at his home that he will cooperate with the police in arresting those linked to the attacks on military installations. But he showed no sign of backing down from his drive to force elections and return to power.

"We will win the next elections even without launching any campaign," he said, claiming his party still enjoyed mass popular support. Since last week, small rallies in solidarity with the military have been held around the country denouncing attacks by Khan's supporters. □

## Mexico leader defiant after high court rules tourist train, other works not national security issues

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's Supreme Court ruled Thursday the government cannot simply decree tourist trains or other public work projects to be issues of "national security," but hours later President Andrés

Manuel López Obrador published a similar order in defiance of the decision. The order handed down by high court was the latest in a string of legal setbacks for the president who has sought to broaden the dis-

cretionary powers of the presidency. The court said deeming public works projects to be matters of "national security" violates the public's right to information about such works.

López Obrador has tried to rush through some of his pet programs, including the Maya Train tourism project in the Yucatan Peninsula, by exempting them from normal permitting and public reporting, claiming it is vital to national security. And just hours after the Supreme Court ruled, the president published an order in the Official Gazette of the Federation putting a similar approach into force for projects, including the Maya Train.

It was unclear whether Thursday's ruling involved only the public's right to get information on spend-

ing, costs and other data on such projects, or whether it also repeals the fast-track permitting process. The court is scheduled to discuss and vote on the full range and implications of the ruling Monday.

Even more uncertain was the effect of the president's reinstatement of the "national security" designation hours later. In addition to the Maya Train, his new decree covers an economic corridor that will cross the narrowest part of the country, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and several airports in that southeast area.

López Obrador is already angry at the court for throwing out some of his planned electoral reforms, and has called for a change to make the Supreme Court an elected body. At present, slates of potential jus-

tices are suggested by the president, but elected by the Senate.

In July, López Obrador's government invoked national security powers to forge ahead with a tourist train along the Caribbean coast that threatens extensive caves where some of the oldest human remains in North America have been discovered.

López Obrador is racing to finish the Maya Train project in the remaining two years of his term amid objections of environmentalists, cave divers and archaeologists.

The government had paused the project in 2022 after activists won a court injunction against the route, because it cut a swath through the jungle for tracks without previously filing an environmental impact statement. □



Rogelio Jiménez Pons, director of Fonatur, points to a map of a planned tourist train line through the Yucatan Peninsula known as the Maya Train, during an interview in Mexico City, March 18, 2019.

Associated Press

## The CCCA Foundation announced their “I’m an Artist” (Mi ta un Artista) musical

**(Oranjestad)—The Zengenue Theater Club from the CCCA Foundation (Create and Conserve Culture & Art in Aruba), under the leadership of Mr. Ferdinand Franca, will be presented on their new musical “I’m an Artist” 2nd and 4th of June 2023. France, who is also directing the play, shares a bit about the musical, its themes and the message behind it.**

“I’m an Artist” is dedicated to Samantha Westera Juppa, director of the dance school Club di Movimiento and Sonja Geevers, director of dance school Step by Step.

Franca is an art teacher at Ceque College high school and is a theater director. Last year, he directed the musical called “Plant Today, Harvest Tomorrow” (Planta awe, Cosecha Ma-

ñan), which he put together with the help of the Maria College high school in connection with the school’s 80th anniversary. Due to the overwhelming success of this project, Franca decided to continue to produce and direct musical in Papiamento.

With the musical “Plant Today, Harvest Tomorrow”, France achieved in capturing the interest of young people to join the theatrical arts. This year, they will be presented their new musical “I’m an Artist.” The play consists of a cast of 50 young people and 15 young actors. In terms of the dance sequences, Franca explained that he invited the Club di Movimiento dance school, the Kids and Youth in Action dance group and a group of young dancers under the direction of Jason West-

er and Shaindra Ashby.

The musical consists of two acts. Act 1 reflects the dreams and wishes of Francine to become a dancer. Her journey is met with different obstacles. Her fairy godparents are there to motivate her and to help her fight for her dream. Act 2 reflects the inner battles of Francine to achieve her dreams and become the person she wishes so much to become.

“Both acts touch on the themes of desire, going after your passions, not giving up, thinking clearly and having an open heart, among other. The musical contains various genres of music, innovative theater techniques, modern dance and visual arts. It is a humorous and magical work of art, which invites the audience to take something



from it,” Franca stated.

The CCCA Foundation has the goal to prepare young children and adults for the theatrical arts, so that they can conserve the art and culture of Aruba. This is the foundation’s second musical, and there will be many more in the future. The Foundation is also investigating, documenting and publicizing all that is art and culture on the island.

A ticket for “I’m an Artist” is 25 florins and is available at Cas di Cultura and Plaza Bookshop in the down

town area. You can also call +297 7309696 to ask for a ticket or for more information.

“We wanted to thank Unoca, the Department of Culture, BK Consult and Mixed Media for their amazing support in making this musical a reality. We would also like to thank the parents and students who are participating. We invite all children and adult to be a part of our musical showcase and support our local talent. They are the ones that will become our future artists,” Franca Finalized. □

## Bucuti & Tara named among the few best hotel in the world in Travel + Leisure’ list



**(Oranjestad)—Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort was recently named among the best hotels in the world according to Travel + Leisure. The resort exclusive to adults is the only hotel on the island that was named in the 2023 T+L 500 list.**

This good news came from Mr. Jacqui Gifford, who is the main editor at Travel + Leisure, and this was announced globally back in April: “I’m very happy to share with the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort that they has been acknowledged as one of the 500 best hotel on earth in our new edition of T+L 500.”



Each year, readers of Travel + Leisure—the biggest travel magazine in the U.S., with an audience of 36 million reader—vote for their favorite destination, hotel, resort and more, in the magazine’s survey of World’s Best Awards. Based on the results from 2022, the T+L 500 list of 2023 acknowledges the best hotel around the world in a prestigious directory categorized by geographic regions and ordered alphabetically.

This list serves as a reliable source for billions of enthusiastic travelers. “On behalf of all of us at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, we feel honored to

be recognized once again by one of the most reliable travel guide, namely Travel + Leisure,” Ewald Biemans, owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, expressed. “Offering a personal and luxurious vacation for our guests and taking care of our island and the planet at the same time is our passion.”

The complete list will appear in the May edition of Travel + Leisure and on Apple News+, with a published announcement on [www.travelandleisure.com](http://www.travelandleisure.com) □

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## The Chaz Model & Talent School celebrates its 25th anniversary



(Oranjestad) - During a reunion between the models of The Chaz Model & Talent School, the Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes took the opportunity to extend a recognition to the director Ms. Chastity Kock-Hodge to celebrate the 25th anniversary of her modeling and talent school.

Chastity, or Chas as everyone knows her by, is not unknown in the Aruban world of modeling. With modeling always being her passion, she decided at a relatively young age to start giving classes to kids and teens. After the immense interest the parents showed, Chas made the decision to ex-

pand on this and introducing a dance class as well as preparation for Carnival Queens. For years, Chastity worked with passion and dedicated herself to entertaining our community with her spectacular shows. Her love for the youth and the need to help kids who are special, she opened the

doors to include kids with special needs in her dance and modeling groups.

Today, The Chaz Model & Talent School is a well known school that not only offers local shows but also sends representatives to participate in different tournaments and interna-

tional modeling competitions, which during the last years have achieved various titles. This year The Chaz Model & Talent School is celebrating 25 years in existence and will celebrate this with an illustrious show in November.

The Prime Minister in the name of the government of Aruba presented Ms. Chastity Kock-Hodge with a recognition for her excellence and her 25 years of dedication and professionalism in the world of modeling, singing and dance both nationally and internationally. The Prime Minister also thanked Ms Chastity for the beautiful work that she has been doing and for helping the youth develop their potential and achieve greatness on international runways. □



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Goodwill certificate as a token of appreciation.

The honoring certification program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island of Aruba.

### Honoring Levels:

Distinguished Ambassadors: 10+ years  
Goodwill Ambassadors: 20+ years  
Emerald Ambassadors: 35+ years

### Honoree were:

Goodwill Ambassadors 20+ years:

Don Caruso & Linda Calimeri residents of New York, United States (have been visiting Aruba for 27 years consecutively).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were presented with the official certificate, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassadors for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many

years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassadors as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home! □



## BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY!

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The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Goodwill certificate as a token of appreciation.

The honoring certification program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize, the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island of Aruba.

### Honoring Levels:

Distinguished Ambassadors: 10+ years

Goodwill Ambassadors: 20+ years

Emerald Ambassadors: 35+ years

### Honoree were:

Goodwill Ambassadors 20+ years:

John & Cindi Sylvester residents of Maine, United States (have been visiting Aruba for 22 years consecutively).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were presented with the official certificate, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassadors for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassadors as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

### According to Honorees these are the top reasons for returning to Aruba:

Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester reasons:

Aruba's perfect weather

Aruba's friendly people

The beautiful beaches and sunsets

Aruba's low crime rate

Sun and Fun



## beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Judy and Sharon from New Jersey**. They have been coming for "20-something years" and they said they love Aruba. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.



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# Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables



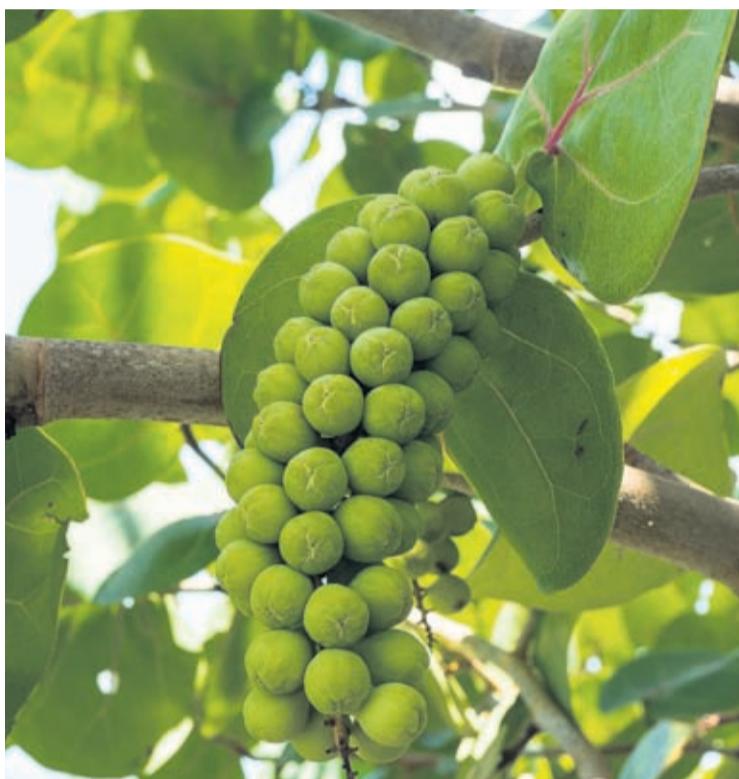
## Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.



## Shimarucu

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).



## Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacteria to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.



## Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.□

**Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.**

## Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.



## Sabrina Sonensein presents her workshop on self-love

***"There is nothing better than healing the mind and body"***

(Oranjestad)—Sabrina Sonensein has been a psychologist since 2008, with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in clinical psychology. With this, she hosted various kinds of workshops, but when it comes to self-love, Sonensein expressed that this is a first for her.

Sabrina recognizing within herself and other people the tendency to always go the extra mile for others, while going as far as ignoring our own needs: "To give yourself the same time and dedication means to love yourself just as much," she stated. The same thing is true in terms of empathy, according to her; People are more inclined to have compassion for others but rarely for ourselves.

Often times, people think that self-love means doing your hair, or treating yourself to a drink or a spa-appointment, "but self-love is much more than that. It is accepting ourselves for the good and the bad. It's accepting our body, loving ourselves fully and prioritizing ourselves more."

For Sonensein, it's not only important for adults to know their own value and own it, but she thinks it's also crucial for young people and kids to learn the same thing: "If we don't cultivate self-love from a young age and teach our children this, in the future they will also struggle with self-love and self-acceptance. Then comes the bullying, the negative perspective of their own body, the low-esteem and more. It's important for children to learn they are worth much more than what they think," Sonensein pointed out.

For this reason, she thought it would be a great idea to host a workshop on self-love, to not only explain what it is, but to also demonstrate how to practice it: "Some people may say it's selfish or that it's narcissistic, but it really isn't. The importance of someone knowing their worth is so that they could love and value someone else fully,"



I Love  
Me  
More

she explained.

She also mentioned the problem of generation mindset and trauma, which often times are not even of the person themselves. For this, Sonensein pointed out that it is important for people to be able to look in the mirror, accept and recognize what they can work on and have more compassion to those in your family that maybe was never able to be aware of themselves: "you have to look at yourself in the mirror and acknowledge your essence. There is nothing better than healing the mind and body, and to be able to look in the mirror and say 'I love you'."

This is why she wants to teach people that when you create an affirmation for yourself, you have to believe in it and it has to be something that comes from yourself, that is important to you. This is how you heal and this is how you become aware that things do indeed get better," she said.

Her workshop takes place on May 27th at BAZ-RRR Gallery, in the vicinity of the Harbor House Aruba starting from 9:30am to 1pm. The cost of this workshop is 85 florins. Those that may be interested could get more information on the

Facebook page 'Mindful Love Aruba' or through Sonensein's e-mail at [sjsonens@gmail.com](mailto:sjsonens@gmail.com).

"I love you, but I love me more" are the words that Samantha wants to focus on in her workshop, so that people can start to acknowledge that self-love does indeed exist and is something very valuable that everyone has within themselves.

She gave the example that on Aruba, there are many people that go through a lot and end up not loving themselves or do not have the same compassion for themselves as they have for others.

"Often times we want to do things for other people. As a mother or father, we want to sacrifice everything for our children and our family, but how about we also focus on ourselves? This way we can grow into a better person. I noticed that this is lacking within our culture, because we think that self-care equals self-love, but the former is only temporary, and is just one factor. Sleeping well and choosing the right friends are also forms of self-love. There is nothing better than to be honest with ourselves for ourselves, for the better version of ourselves," Sonensein finalized. □

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Come into

1 Barber-view

shop 39 Old World

needs deer

7 Tater 40 Fragrance

11 Brewing counter

need bottle

12 Florence's

river

13 Blood line

14 Bridge

fee

15 Peace

goddess

16 Said with

a twang

17 Be bold

18 Give

19 Paper

pack

21 Quite cold

22 Yeti's

cousin

25 Chips buy

26 Take

apart

27 Draw out

29 Make lots

33 Costume

34 Jacket

flap

35 Seize

36 Harry

Potter,

for one

37 Pot starter

A	P	A	R	T	W	E	L	D	S
S	O	N	A	R	O	V	E	R	T
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S	O	L	P	U	N	T	E		
S	T	A	T	E	N	G	I	R	D

Yesterday's answer

**DOWN**

7	"Paradise	23	Stir up
1	Solemn	24	Yellow
2	Caesar's	25	Handout
3	land	26	Mundane
4	Critic,	27	Seeker
5	at times	28	a gate
6	Starting	29	Dice, e.g.
7	bids	30	First lady
8	tiny	31	Set off
9	opening	32	Wanderer
10	18	33	Church
11	Rig	34	Dismay
12	place	35	Leader
13	20	36	Green hue
14	Italian port	37	Soaked
15	22	38	
16		39	
17		40	

5-20

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

K H B X R N A S K H B M F W N A W A Q  
K H B M R D W M X J M D W S W M D  
B A F M D Y D Q D A X D Q N A X R D  
R N E X H M K H Z X R D T H M P Q .  
J B X X R D A K H B M D W Q .

— G W I D E J W P Q T N A

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU'RE NOT A STAR UNTIL THEY CAN SPELL YOUR NAME IN KARACHI. — HUMPHREY BOGART

## Pay Transparency Laws: What Small Businesses Need to Know

By OLIVIA CHEN  
of NerdWallet

Eight states have adopted pay transparency laws, including California and New York, with several more considering legislation. Much of the buzz around these laws has been regarding large corporations and their employees, but how do small businesses fit into the picture? Here's what you need to know.

**WHO MUST COMPLY**

In the states and several localities that have pay transparency laws, employer requirements vary based on number of employees. For example, in Washington state, businesses with 15 or more employees must disclose pay information in job postings, whereas in New York, the number is four or more. If you are a company looking to source remote talent from any state that is subject to laws, you must also include a pay range even if your company isn't located in that state.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T COMPLY**

Monetary penalties, assessed per violation or per job posting, can range from hundreds to several thousands of dollars and are currently only assessed against companies that have been reported by a candidate.

Penalties may be assessed right away or 30 days after a complaint is filed, if the company hasn't rectified the issue during that time, according to Lulu Seikaly, senior corporate attorney at Payscale, a company that helps businesses with compensation management. Small-business owners may also consider other costs of not complying,



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

such as damage to reputation, employee retention or recruiting, especially for businesses in industries that target younger candidates. For example, according to a recent study from Adobe, 85% of recent and upcoming graduates say they are more likely to pass on a job application if the posting doesn't include salary information.

**HOW SMALL BUSINESSES CAN COMPLY**

As it currently stands, companies subject to pay transparency laws must post a "good faith" salary range, meaning a range that they reasonably expect they will pay for the role but that can still be negotiated in either direction based on the candidate. If you don't typically post job openings, your obligation to provide transparent pay information is upon request by a candidate or current employee, according to Marina Vitek, a mentor at the Coachella Valley, California, chapter of SCORE, a nonprofit that offers free resources to small-business owners.

Whether you are a local cafe with a five-person staff or a consultant

ing firm with 80 employees, it's prudent to take inventory of your internal pay structure before posting any salary information to avoid conflict with current employees. However, this process doesn't have to be complicated, says Jim Emanuel, a human resources knowledge advisor at the Society for Human Resource Management.

Keep up-to-date information like hire date, previous performance review ratings and pay increases in a spreadsheet to reference when making hiring decisions.

If you use payroll or HR software, this data can be even easier to gather. "I think for smaller businesses it's just about pulling data," Emanuel says. "It doesn't have to be fancy."

**BENEFITS AND COMPLICATIONS OF PAY TRANSPARENCY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

While pay transparency can help businesses move toward pay equity, it also raises concerns for some small businesses which often pay less than larger corporations that they won't be able to attract good employees.

Businesses may be tempted to instead opt to leverage referrals or reach out to candidates directly, resulting in less diverse candidate pools, said Jen L'Estrange, founder and managing director of Red Clover, a human resources management consulting firm, in an email. □

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# Threatening 22M people, Mexico's Popocatepetl is a very closely watched volcano



A plume of ash and steam rises from the Popocatepetl volcano, as seen from Mexico City, Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

By MARÍA VERZA  
Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano rumbled to life again this week, belching out towering clouds of ash that forced 11 villages to cancel school sessions. The residents weren't the only ones keeping a close eye on the towering peak. Every time there is a sigh, tic or heave in Popocatepetl, there are dozens of scientists, a network of sensors and cameras, and a roomful of powerful equipment watching its every move. The 17,797-foot (5,426-meter) volcano, known affectionately as "El Popo," has been spewing toxic fumes, ash and lumps of incandescent rock persistently for almost 30 years, since it awakened from a long slumber in 1994.

The volcano is 45 miles (72 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City, but looms much closer to the eastern fringes of the metropolitan area of 22 million people. The city also faces threats from earthquakes and sinking soil, but the volcano is the most visible potential danger and the most closely watched. A severe eruption could cut off air traffic, or smother the city in clouds of choking ash.

Ringed around its summit are six cameras, a thermal imaging device and 12 seismological monitoring stations that operate 24 hours a day, all reporting back to an equipment-filled command center in Mexico City.

A total of 13 scientists from

a multidisciplinary team take turns staffing the command center around the clock. Being able to warn of an impending ash cloud is key, because people can take precautions. Unlike earthquakes, warning times can be longer for the volcano and in general the peak is more predictable. On a recent day, researcher Paulino Alonso made the rounds, checking the readings at the command center run by Mexico's National Disaster Prevention Center, known by its initials as Cenapred. It is a complex task that involves seismographs that measure the volcano's internal trembling, which could indicate hot rock and gas moving up the vents in the peak.

Monitoring gases in nearby springs and at the peak and wind patterns that

help determine where the ash could be blown also play a role.

The forces inside are so great that they can temporarily deform the peak, so cameras and sensors must monitor the very shape of the volcano. How do you explain all of this to 25 million non-experts living within a 62-mile (100-kilometer) radius who have grown so used to living near the volcano?

Authorities came up with the simple idea of a volcano "stoplight" with three colors: green for safety, yellow for alert and red for danger.

For most of the years since the stoplight was introduced, it has been stuck at some stage of "yellow." The mountain sometimes quiets down, but not for long. It seldom shoots up molten lava: instead it's

more the "explosive" type, showering out hot rocks that tumble down its flanks and emitting bursts of gas and ash.

The center also has monitors in other states; Mexico is a country all too familiar with natural disasters.

For example, Mexico's earthquake early alert system is also based at the command center. Because the city's soil is so soft it was built on a former lake bed a quake hundreds of miles away on the Pacific coast can cause huge destruction in the capital, as happened in 1985 and 2017.

A system of seismic monitors along the coast sends messages that race faster than the quake's shock waves. Once the sirens start blaring, it can give Mexico City residents up to half a minute to get to safety, usually on the streets outside.□

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## Bob Baffert is back at the Preakness, his first Triple Crown race in 2 years

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
AP Sports Writer

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Bob Baffert is back at the Preakness for his first Triple Crown race in two years, returning from a suspension and looking for a record-breaking win with National Treasure.

The white-haired Hall of Fame trainer and one of the faces of horse racing was in a familiar spot outside the stakes barn at Pimlico Race Course on Friday morning. National Treasure is his first horse at the Preakness since 2021 with Medina Spirit, whose disqualification that year after winning the Kentucky Derby for failing a drug test caused Baffert to be barred from the sport's best-known race since. "We love it here: It's very low key, and they treat you really well," Baffert said. "It's laid-back, chill, you've got a Derby winner, so everybody's excited about the

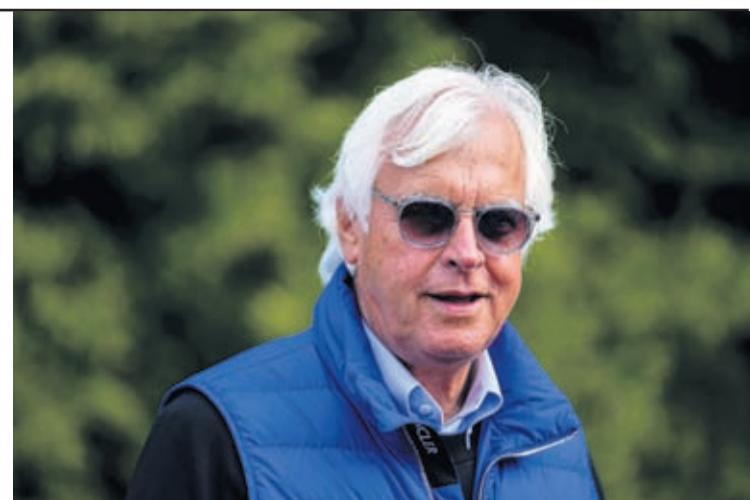
Derby winner. The Preakness is about coming here, having fun and they want to see the Derby winner run." Baffert was not eligible to enter a horse in the Preakness or Belmont last year because of a 90-day suspension in Kentucky that Maryland and New York honored. "We just keep on moving forward," Baffert said of his return from suspension. "We have other horses to worry about. A lot of it is noise, so you keep the noise out and continue working, stay busy."

Staying busy could mean plenty of winning this weekend. National Treasure is Derby champion Mage's top challenger in the Preakness, and Baffert has three favorites in other big races: filly Faiza in the \$300,000 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes, Havnameltdown in the \$200,000 Chick Lang and Arabian Lion in the \$100,000

Sir Barton. "You bring 'em, you hope they win," Baffert said. "It's good to be involved in these races. Our whole operation is to play at the top level to play at this level. All my clients like to play at this level so if you can come here and win those races, they're exciting to win on the big days."

The biggest race of the weekend is the \$1.65 million Preakness, which Baffert and 19th-century trainer R. Wyndham Walden each have won seven times. Baffert said he has "never been one to think about records. I just like to enjoy it and have good horses and compete."

Baffert has brought a lot of good horses to Baltimore during his career. He did not come to Pimlico two years ago, leaving long-time assistant Jimmy Barnes to saddle Medina Spirit in an



**Bob Baffert**, center, owner of Preakness Stakes entrant National Treasure, walks near the stables ahead of the 148th running of the Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico Race Course, Friday, May 19, 2023, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

effort not to be a distraction after word emerged that the horse had tested positive at Churchill Downs for a medication that was not allowed on race day. Medina Spirit was allowed to run in the Preakness with additional testing procedures and finished third.

Baffert-trained Authentic finished second in the Preakness run in October with no fans in 2020 after winning the Derby. He most recently won the Preakness

in 2018 with Justify, who went on to become horse racing's 13th Triple Crown champion.

This time, he said Mage — who won the Derby at odds of 15-1 — is the horse to beat. Baffert's just happy to be here.

"We're just here to be a part of it and hopefully get a piece of it or all of it or whatever," he said. "We love Pimlico. It's basically the only time I eat crab-cakes all year." □

## Rubio wins much-altered 13th stage, Thomas stays in Giro lead



**Colombia's Einer Rubio Reyes** celebrates winning the 13th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Borgofranco D'Ivrea to Crans Montana, Friday, May 19, 2023.

Associated Press

**CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland (AP)** — Einer Rubio won a shortened and weather-affected 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia for

his first victory in a Grand Tour while Geraint Thomas remained in the pink jersey on Friday.

Rubio, who rides for Mo-

vistar, had time to raise an arm above his head and point to the sky as he crossed the line just ahead of fellow escapees Thibaut Pinot and Jefferson Alexander Cepeda. They sprinted for victory after a tough climb to the summit finish at Crans-Montana.

"A big day that I was looking for by working very hard," Rubio said. "It's been difficult with the bad weather. But I had to keep going. I knew that Pinot was very strong. I had to finish with him and play it well tactically."

"It will take time for me to realize that I won a stage of the Giro d'Italia. I didn't believe I'd do it."

The route had already been changed earlier in the week when the top of the Passo del Gran San Bernardo was cut because of snowfall and a risk of avalanches.

On Friday morning, it was announced that that climb would be removed completely because of adverse weather in Italy, and the

riders would instead start past the halfway point and the stage slashed from 199 kilometers to 80 kilometers. Race organizers said they "decided to meet the athletes' requests by applying the extreme weather protocol."

That saw the riders set off at the original start in Borgofranco d'Ivrea but, immediately after the neutral zone, they got off their bicycles and onto team buses which took them to the new start in Switzerland, at the foot of the brutal climb up Croix de Couer.

When the day's racing eventually started, Pinot immediately attacked and he was followed by Cepeda, Rubio and Derek Gee.

They had an advantage of nearly two minutes on the overall leaders when they crossed the snow-covered summit of the Croix de Couer and extended that to nearly three minutes at the foot of the final climb. Pinot and Cepeda took turns to attack near the top

of the climb but Rubio quietly stuck with them before accelerating in the final few hundred meters.

The main contenders for the overall title rolled across 1 minute, 35 seconds behind. Thomas remained two seconds ahead of Primoz Roglic and 22 ahead of Joao Almeida.

"We stayed calm when a small group went in the first climb," Thomas said. "We stayed in control with Ben Swift and Pavel Sivakov setting the pace. Great ride by them."

"The way it went at the end made it quite hard to attack. But Primoz is probably happy to leave me in the maglia rosa for a few more days."

I expect something more from him next week."

Saturday's 14th stage has a top-category climb near the start in Sierre but after the descent is then almost entirely flat on the rest of the 193-kilometer route to Cassano Magnago.

The Giro ends in Rome on May 28. □

# All-time NFL great running back, social activist Jim Brown dead at 87

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown, the unstoppable running back who retired at the peak of his brilliant career to become an actor as well as a prominent civil rights advocate during the 1960s, has died. He was 87.

A spokeswoman for Brown's family said he passed away peacefully in his Los Angeles home on Thursday night with his wife, Monique, by his side.

One of the greatest players in football history and one of the game's first superstars, Brown was chosen the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1965 and shattered the league's record books in a short career spanning 1957-65.

Brown led the Cleveland Browns to their last NFL title in 1964 before retiring in his prime after the '65 season to become an actor. He appeared in more than 30 films, including "Any Given Sunday" and "The Dirty Dozen."

An unstoppable runner with power, speed and endurance, Brown's arrival sparked the game's burgeoning popularity on television.

As Black Americans fought for equality, Brown used his platform and voice to advance their cause.

In 1967, Brown organized a meeting in Cleveland of the nation's top Black athletes, including Bill Russell and Lew Alcindor, who later became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, to support boxer Muhammad Ali's fight against the war in Vietnam. In later years, he worked to curb gang violence in LA and founded Amer-I-Can, a program to help disadvantaged inner-city youth and ex-convicts.

On the field, there was no one like Brown, who would blast through would-be tacklers, refusing to let one man take him down before sprinting away from linebackers and defensive backs. He was also famous for using a stiff arm to shed defenders in the open field or push them away like they were rag dolls.



Jim Brown is introduced before the inaugural Pro Football Hall of Fame Fan Fest Friday, May 2, 2014, at the International Exposition Center in Cleveland.

Associated Press

"My arms were like my protectors and weapons," Brown said during an interview with NFL Films.

Indeed, Brown was unlike any back before him, and some feel there has never been anyone better than Cleveland's incomparable No. 32. At 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, he was dominant, relentless and without mercy, his highlight reels featuring runs around and right through opponents, fighting for every yard, dragging multiple defenders along or finding holes where none seemed to exist.

After Brown was tackled, he'd slowly rise and walk even more slowly back to the huddle then dominate the defense when he got the ball again.

Off the field, Brown was a contentious character.

While he had a soft spot for those in need, and his generosity changed lives, he also was arrested a half-dozen times, mostly on charges of hitting women.

In June 1999, Brown's wife, Monique, called 911, saying Brown had smashed her car with a shovel and threatened to kill her. During the trial, Monique Brown recanted. Jim Brown was acquitted of a charge of domestic threats but convicted of misdemeanor vandalism. The Los Angeles judge sentenced Brown to six months in jail when he

refused to attend domestic violence counseling.

He also feuded with Browns coach Paul Brown and later with the team's management, although he played his entire career with Cleveland.

When his playing days ended, Brown set off for Hollywood and eventually settled there. Brown advised Cleveland coach Blanton Collier of his retirement while the team was in training camp and he was on the set of "The Dirty Dozen" in England.

Among his films were "100 Rifles," "Mars Attacks!" Spike Lee's "He Got Game," Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday," and the satire "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka," in which he parodied the blaxploitation genre. In 2002, Brown was the subject of Lee's HBO documentary "Jim Brown: All-American."

In recent years, Brown's relationship with the Browns was inconsistent. He served as an adviser to owner Randy Lerner and was hired to counsel the team's younger players. However, in 2010, Brown parted ways with the team after having his role reduced by incoming team president Mike Holmgren. Brown felt slighted by the perceived demotion when the club unveiled a "Ring of Honor" inside its downtown sta-

dium, Brown didn't attend the ceremony in protest.

Brown was an eight-time All-Pro and went to the Pro Bowl in each of his nine years in the league. When Brown walked away from the game at age 30, he held the league's records for yards (12,312) and touchdowns (126). And despite his bruising style, Browns never missed a game, playing in 118 straight.

"He told me, 'Make sure when anyone tackles you he remembers how much it hurts,'" said Hall of Fame tight end John Mackey. "He lived by that philosophy and I always followed that advice."

A two-sport star at Syracuse some say he is the best lacrosse player in NCAA history Brown endured countless racist taunts while playing at the virtually all-white school at the time. Still, he was an All-American in both sports, leading the nation in scoring, and lettered in basketball.

Brown was the sixth overall pick of the 1957 draft, joining a team that routinely played for the title. He was the Offensive Rookie of the Year that season.

Running behind an offensive line featuring Hall of Fame tackles Lou Groza and Mike McCormack, Brown set a league mark with 1,527 yards and scored

17 TDs on his way to the league's Most Outstanding Player award a precursor to the MVP in 1958. Over the next three seasons, he never ran for less than 1,257 yards before picking up just 996 in 1962.

He led the NFL in rushing eight times, gaining a career-best 1,863 yards in 1963. He averaged 104 yards per game, scored 106 rushing touchdowns and averaged an astonishing 5.2 yards per carry. A dangerous receiver as well, Brown finished with 262 catches for 2,499 yards and another 20 TDs.

"I've said many times, and I will always say, Jim Brown is the best," Hall of Fame running back Gale Sayers once said, "and he will still be the best long after all his records are broken."

Packers great Paul Hornung felt Brown was unstoppable.

"Give me Jim Brown over anybody at anything," he said. Brown's No. 32 was retired by the Browns in '71, the same year he entered the Hall of Fame. But he rarely visited Cleveland during the 1970s and '80s. He and Cleveland owner Art Modell were at odds over his sudden retirement; the two later patched up their differences and remained good friends.

Brown supported Modell's decision to move Cleveland's franchise to Baltimore in 1995. It was both a reflection of his loyalty to Modell and another sign of his fierce independence. Brown was one of the few former Browns players not angry with Modell for moving the team. "They have grown up in a different era," former Browns coach Romeo Crennel said. "He's one of the greatest players in NFL history and what he was able to accomplish in his time was tremendous. I don't know that anybody could do what he did, the way he did it, under the circumstances that he had to operate and the things that he had to endure. And for him to go out on top, that's something that not many guys are able to appreciate either." □

# Weekly SPECIALS



WAS \$6.45	\$3.99 Each	WAS \$15.99	\$14.28 Per KG	WAS \$4.54	\$3.40 Per Bag	WAS \$6.93	\$5.14 Per KG
Peppers Rainbow	Entrecanto	Potato Yellow Yukon 5lbs	Loinribs for Stew				

WAS \$2.79	\$2.22 Per Bag	WAS \$10.39	\$9.14 Per KG	WAS \$2.57	\$2.17 Each	WAS \$5.65	\$5.11 Per Bag	WAS \$13.71	\$11.48 Each
Onions Yellow Medium 3lbs	Chicken Cutlet Hot/Spicy	Tomato Grape 1 Pint	Minneola Tangerine 3lb	Panamei Mahi Mahi Portions 16oz					

WAS \$2.51	\$2.28 Each	WAS \$4.90	\$4.17 Each	WAS \$2.97	\$2.11 Each	WAS \$2.85	\$2.39 Each	WAS \$13.13	\$11.42 Each
Conimex Ketjap Manis Sweet Soy Sauce 250ml	Unox Bruine Bonen Soep 800ml	EE Mac & Cheese Cups 2.05oz	Sunny Delight Tangy Original 64oz	Angel Soft Toilet Paper 8 Mega Rolls					

DAIRY/FROZEN	HBC/GM	DELI/BAKERY
WAS \$10.85	WAS \$4.57	WAS \$1.54
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